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1 September 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Department review completed

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Laos: The informal talks among key Laotian leaders in Paris have made little apparent progress.

Premier Souvanna indicated that he would not insist that the Pathet Lao withdraw completely from the positions they seized last spring in the Plaine des Jarres. He proposed instead that the rival forces exercise joint control of the Plaine under the supervision of the International Control Commission.

The Pathet Lao did not reject this proposal out of hand, but they would be unlikely to agree unless they could extract substantial concessions in other areas.

Souvanna's room for maneuver is narrowly circumscribed, however, by the opposition of strong rightist elements to any accommodation with the Pathet Lao. If Souvanna were to make major concessions, the rightists might unite to overthrow his coalition government.

According to the press, more formal discussions are to open today.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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